



CONTINUITY

Volume 21, No. 4

Preservation Action Council of San Jose
Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

Winter, 2010

20th Anniversary Issue

COVER STORY-

PAC*SJ Celebrates 20 Years

PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 3 ED Message
- 4 Newly Restored Casa Grande
- 9 Preservation Kudos
 - Susan Brandt-Hawley Wins Award from Nat'l Trust
 - Mid-Century ATO House
- 10 New Japanese American Museum Opens

PAC*SJ NEWS

- 10 PAC*SJ Garage Sale Success
- 11 PAC*SJ Calendar
- 12 PAC*SJ Celebration Honorees
- 12 Origins of PAC*SJ
- 13 PAC*SJ's Efforts Since 1990
- 14 Celebration Auction Donors
- 14 San Jose Losses Since 1990
- 15 Thank You, Sponsors!

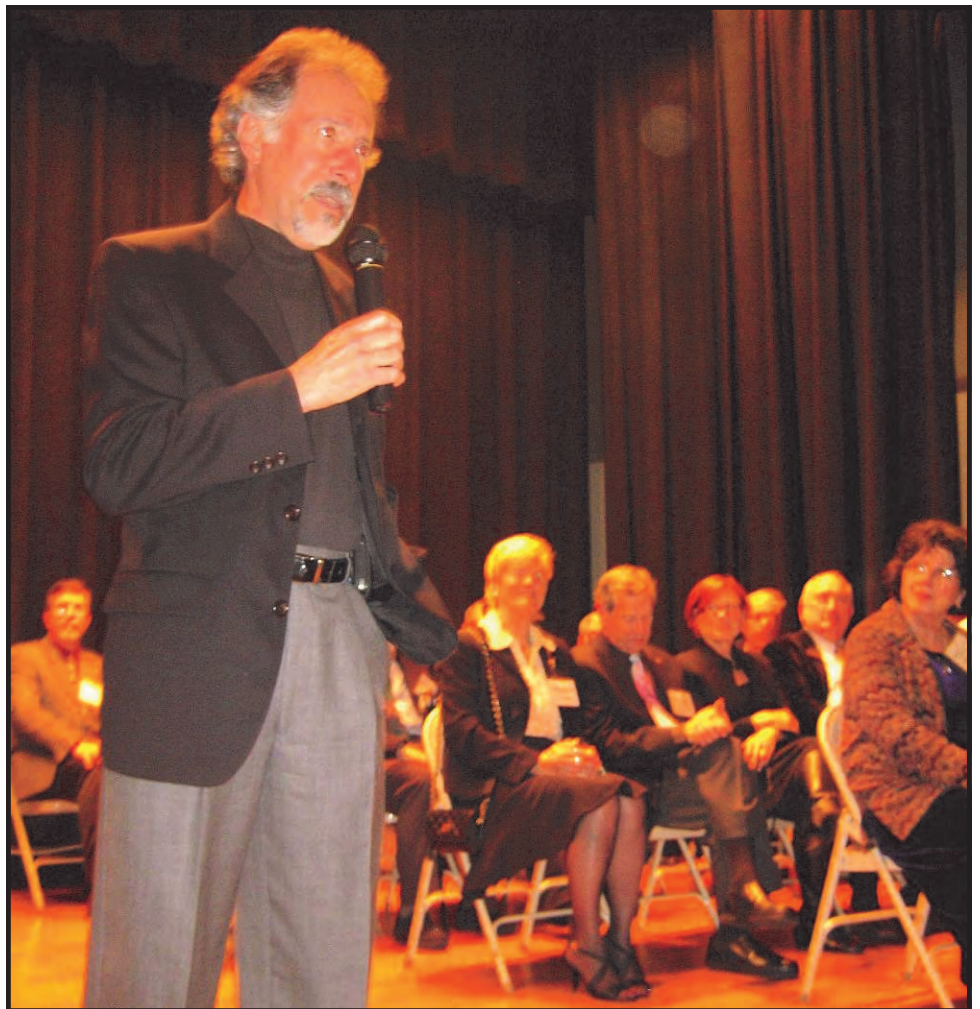
PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 16 Remillard House
- 18 New Book Release, "San Jose"
- 19 Other New Local History Books
- 20 Exploring SJ Landmarks
- 20 In Memory of Sal Sunseri
- 23 Membership Form
- 24 Board and Staff Roster

PAC*SJ Celebrates 20 Years

On the evening of November 12th, PAC*SJ celebrated its 20th Anniversary by honoring its founding Board Members who had the initiative and foresight, back in 1990, to shape this organization for the purpose of saving San Jose's architectural heritage. The anniversary event took place at the lovely San Jose Woman's Club, a city landmark at 75 South 11th Street..

(Continued on page 2)



*Executive Director Brian Grayson pays tribute to PAC*SJ honorees sitting on stage*

PAC*SJ Celebrates 20 Years (Cont'd)

PAC*SJ's Executive Director, Brian Grayson, and the evening's Master of Ceremonies, Board Member Jim Zetterquist, delivered a tribute to the honorees, who are listed on page 12. The honorees were individually announced on stage and presented with a Certificate of Recognition. Finally, the "Preservation Hero" award went to Karita Hummer who was the driving force that established PAC*SJ back in 1989-1990.

Councilpersons Sam Liccardo (District 3) and Ash Kalra (District 2) presented a Commendation to PAC*SJ and reaffirmed their commitment to historic preservation. PAC*SJ followed with a presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Vice Mayor Judy Chirco, who was represented by her Chief-of-Staff, Peter Hamilton. Judy Chirco has served as an important liaison between the City Council and the historic preservation community for many years.

Before and after the presentations, a lively silent auction *(Continued on page 7)*



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necessarily those of PAC*SJ itself.

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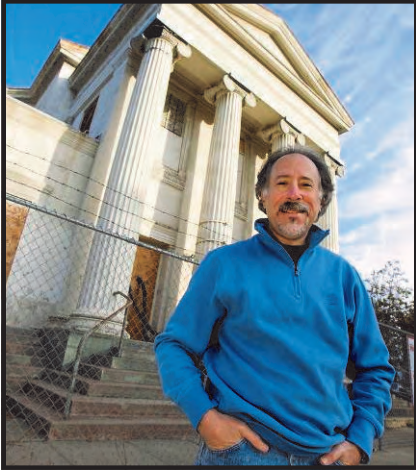
*PAC*SJ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

*Top right, Honoree Karita
Hummer accepts the
"Preservation Hero"
Award.*

*Lower right,
Honoree Paul Bernal.*

*Above left, Honorees,
Craig Mineweaser, Ed
Mosher and Lilyann
Brannon on stage for the
presentation to our
founding directors.*

Executive Director's Message



Brian Grayson

Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

Our 20th Anniversary celebration is now history. Everyone had a great time as we honored the Founders of PAC*SJ. It was a gathering like no other in our 20 years. This impressive group of leaders was acknowledged for their vision in creating our organization and for the success we have had since our inception.

The San Jose Woman's Club was beautifully decorated; we had a unique selection of silent auction items, as well as great food and music. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the people and actions that have made PAC*SJ the leading voice of historic preservation in San Jose. Many thanks to everyone who attended and thanks also to our Board members and volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success.

Although we have saved many historic structures during our 20 years, our work is still not done. Thanksgiving Day saw the loss of yet another historic building to fire. This time it was a Victorian home located on Senter Road. At press time we have not learned the cause of the fire nor do we know if the house was in compliance with the City's Vacant Building Ordinance. We have inquired with the City Planning Department to determine why another historic building in San Jose has been lost to fire.

The City's ongoing budget crisis is negatively impacting the staffing of its historic preservation programs. The Planning Department is no longer able to fully fund the Historic Preservation Officer position so there is less opportunity for proactive enforcement of the City's historic preservation policies.

The diminished Planning Department staffing means we must rely even more on our membership to be the "eyes and ears" in the community. While we maintain a good working relationship with the Planning Staff we will make them aware of issues of concern they may not have the time to monitor on their own. We can only do that with assistance from our members who are active in their neighborhoods and the community at-large.

If you see historic properties that appear to be threatened due to neglect, vandalism, etc., please contact your City Councilmember or contact us and we will inform the appropriate people within the City. If we all work together hopefully we can overcome the impacts of these adverse budget conditions.

Another impact the budget shortfall is having is on the City's Historic Landmarks Commission. They have gone from meeting monthly to quarterly. This means some issues of concern to the historic preservation community may not get the timely review they require.

While many City programs are suffering at the hands of budget cutbacks, it appears that historic preservation is being hit especially hard. We all know that any historic building we lose to fire, neglect, demolition, etc., is a piece of our local history that will never return. It is important that we all work to prevent further losses even as funding for preservation programs shrinks.

Our elected leaders must step-up and look for creative solutions that will be cost effective but doable, even in this down economy. Someday, when the budget picture is better, we don't want to look back and wish we had done more to save our historic resources – because then it will be too late.

We will continue to be vigilant in protecting our historic buildings through advocacy and education. Your continued support will allow us to do the work necessary as we look forward to our next twenty years.

As we come to the end of another year, I want to thank Anne Stahr for her efforts in handling our financial records. She has brought a sense of professionalism to our bookkeeping and budget process. Anne has decided to move on to other pursuits but she leaves us with much improved bookkeeping procedures and we thank her for all she has done for PAC*SJ.

This is our last *Continuity* for the year so I would like to thank everyone for their support of the organization during 2010. We still have lots to do as we look ahead, but with the support of our membership I believe we can accomplish much.

Have a very happy holiday season and best wishes for a happy new year. ☺

Brian Grayson, Executive Director, PAC*SJ

The Newly Restored Casa Grande

A very successful Grand Re-opening of Casa Grande at New Almaden was held on November 13th. After two years of repair and restoration, this jewel of New Almaden was basking in glory with at least 500 in attendance. The large mansion has been brought back to the original appearance of the 1854 Classic Revival style mansion which served as the official residence and mining office for many of the superintendents of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine.

The first floor of the Casa Grande now holds a mining museum with excellent displays depicting what life was like working in the mines. The walls of the first floor are brick with many graceful archways. The large rooms on the second floor are beautifully furnished with antique furniture, paintings, and décor of the later half of the 19th century. The third floor was not open but contains offices, work spaces and meeting rooms.


The patio to the rear of the Casa Grande looks over a large expanse of lawn and landscaping. A canopy of heritage trees surrounds the patio and becomes an attractive gathering place for large groups. This was the location, on Nov. 13th, where the staff and officials made announcements, told a bit of the history of Casa Grande and held the raffle.

Guests lined up for a complimentary lunch in the early afternoon while listening to live music. Games were available for children and several authors were present to sign their newly released books. All guests received a brochure describing a self-guided walking tour of 32



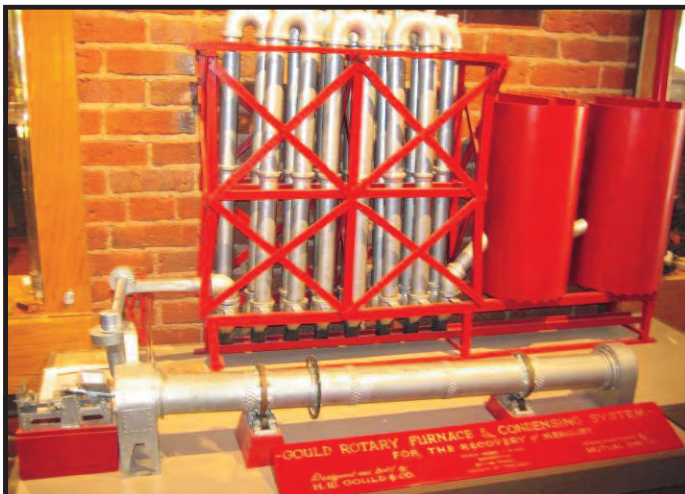
historical points of interest in New Almaden, including Casa Grande, the Mining office, the Hacienda Cemetery, adobe houses and much more.

The Casa Grande is open on Fridays (12-4) and Saturdays/Sundays (10-4). Admission is free. Guided tours are available for groups by request at 408-323-1107. A gift shop is located on the second floor.

For the history and photos of early Casa Grande, see our Fall issue of Continuity on line. 

Top, present view of the 1854 Casa Grande at 21350 Almaden Road. Above, an ornate antique fireplace. Left, a room decorated with Victorian furniture and objects.
(more photos on page 5)

The Newly Restored Casa Grande (Cont'd)



Clockwise from top right, rear view of the Casa Grande (white with green trim) during the celebration; stairway on second floor; the Gould Rotary Furnace and Condensing System in the mining museum on the first floor; two of many brick archways inside the first floor; example of brick archway on first floor with door.

(More photos on page 6)

The Newly Restored Casa Grande (Cont'd)



Clockwise from top left, guests on rear patio listening to the Casa Grande presentation; a display of mining work in the museum on the first floor of the Casa Grande; mining equipment in museum; a replica of the doctor's office at the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine.

(Photos/text: G. Frank)

PAC*SJ Celebrates 20 Years (Cont'd)

and sales tables kept the guests busy in between eating, conversing, watching the video of PAC*SJ history and listening to the smooth *Vinnie Rodriguez Jazz Quartet* from SJSU. The beautiful SJ Woman's Clubhouse was warmly inviting with lovely flowers throughout, donated by the Club. Glowing candles circled the flowers on the tables. The silent auction included interesting items such as antique chairs, school desk, last remnants of the Donner-Houghton House, artwork, theatre tickets, historic tours, restaurant certificates, Sharks tickets, wine-tasting party, and much more. There was also a "Buy Now" table selling items such as vintage books, Good Housekeeping magazines from 1902-1920, jewelry, trinkets and all sorts of collectables.

The evening's appetizers included a very unique presentation of delicious mash potatoes topped with short rib meat served in fancy martini glasses. Dessert resembled popsicles as the frosted delicacies on sticks were displayed on long boards.

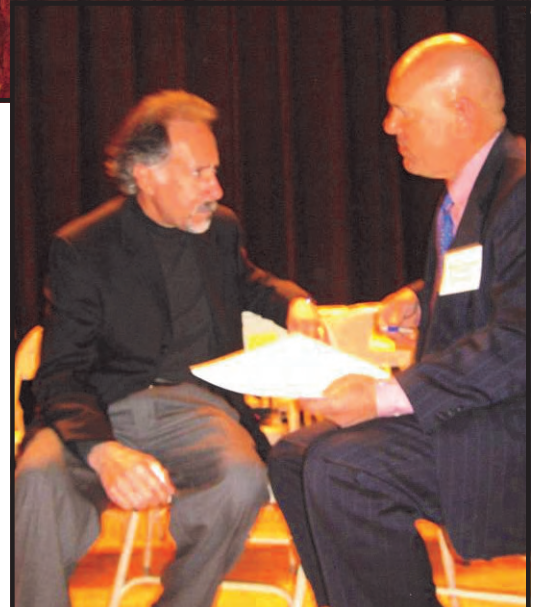
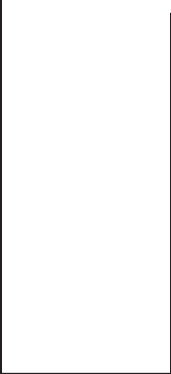
PAC*SJ heartily thanks major sponsors, Adobe Systems Incorporated, SummerHill Homes & Mirassou Trust, San Pedro Square Market—Tom McEnergy, John McEnergy, and Martin Menne, Helen Stevens, Jack Douglas, the Luthard Family and John & Ellen Garboske. All of the sponsors are listed in this newsletter on page 15. Also, a short history of how PAC*SJ began and PAC*SJ's efforts since 1990, are described on pages 12 and 13. *(Continued on page 8)*



*Clockwise from top right, Bonnie Bamburg talks with Karita Hummer (in background, Greg Casella, Susan Hartt, Keith Watt and Larry Bryan); Keith Watt stands before the remaining corbels of the Donner-Houghton House which were auctioned off; Darryl Boyd and PAC*SJ Boardmember Judy Stabile.*

PAC*SJ Celebrates 20 Years (Cont'd)

PAC*SJ thanks the Celebration Committee for the outstanding task of producing this very successful Anniversary event. The Committee Chairpersons were Judy Stabile and Ellen Garboske. Committee members included Patt Curia, Gayle Frank, Judi Henderson, Tricia Hill, Julia Howlett, Anne Stahr, Helen Stevens, Eric Thacker, Lisa Wangsness and Executive Director Brian Grayson. Thanks to all who organized, donated and attended this wonderful celebration of PAC*SJ's 20 years. May we continue to save more of San Jose's history and further educate our citizens on the importance of restoring the structures and landscapes of our past. ☞



Clockwise from top left, Jack Douglas; Patt Curia and Bob Johnson; Judi Henderson; Bev Blockie and Patti Phillips; Brian Grayson and Jim Zetterquist reviewing the plan for the evening program; Royce Dove and Steve Cohen; André Luthard and John Mitchell.

(Photo/Text: G. Frank)

Preservation Kudos

Susan Brandt-Hawley Receives Award

Last month, the National Trust for Historic Preservation presented its **John H. Chafee Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Policy to Susan Brandt-Hawley** at the National Preservation Conference in Austin Texas. Here is what they said: *One of America's most dynamic preservation advocates, California attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley has dedicated her career to saving places that matter in the Golden State. From ancient forests, a World War II aircraft carrier and 19th century cottages in Fresno to a hillside beloved by generations of football fans in Berkeley, mid-century apartments in Venice Beach and a jail where labor organizer Cesar Chavez was incarcerated in Monterey, Brandt-Hawley has championed her state's unique historic assets.*



Susan Brandt-Hawley

During a three-decade career, Brandt-Hawley has successfully argued for the preservation of California's diverse historic heritage before the California Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. In addition to saving individual sites, Brandt-Hawley's diligence and dedication have helped establish ground-breaking legal precedent, broadening the application of California's environmental protection laws. And beyond the courtroom, she shares her expertise as a board member of several preservation and conservation organizations.

Brandt-Hawley was recently credited with saving a collection of historic hotels in downtown Stockton, Calif., and is currently spearheading a legal challenge to the threatened demolition of Palo Alto's historic Juana Briones House. The house, built in 1844 by a first generation Californian, appears on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2010 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

"There are few more effective protectors of California's historic places than Susan Brandt-Hawley," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Valued mentor, vigilant ally, skilled advocate – Susan is all of these and more. In a state rich in assets, she is a treasure."

Susan Brandt-Hawley has worked with PAC*SJ on multiple historic preservation cases, most recently the IBM Building 25 issue. Congratulations to Susan Brandt-Hawley for a well-deserved honor. 🍀

Mid-Century ATO House Brought Back to Life

A good example of a restored mid-century structure sits at 202 So. 11th Street. The fraternity house of Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) has been brought back to life after many decades of minimal maintenance and disrepair. Originally, the house was completed in September of 1962 but was lost to foreclosure around 1969 when the fraternity disbanded. A generous alum, Jim Thompson, purchased the house in August of this year. However, the interior of the house required extensive renovation and repair. In an amazingly short time, Mike Herkanrath, with the help of many others, brought the house back to life in time for its Grand Opening on Oct. 15th.

The house was originally designed by Bill May from San Jose and forms a large rectangle with an open courtyard in the center, which is ideal for sizable group gatherings. Most of the bedrooms are on the second floor and the common areas are on the first floor, such as study/computer room, kitchen, dining room and lounge area. At the Grand Opening the many visitors appreciated the well-appointed interior and the functional efficiency to serve as social and living quarters for a large group of college men. Congratulations to the ATOs and thank you for returning the structure to its original purpose. PAC*SJ strongly advocates saving and reusing mid-century homes and buildings. 🍀



**The ATO House on its Grand Re-opening, Oct. 15th,
202 So. 11th St.**

(Photo: Courtesy of Jim Thompson)

New Japanese American Museum Presents Local History

The new Japanese American Museum has opened its doors at 535 N. 5th Street in San Jose. The museum's mission is to preserve and share Japanese American art, history, and culture, with a focus on the Greater Bay Area. Although the building is new, it contains much history of the local Japanese Americans from the late 19th century through the 20th century. The Museum was made possible through monies received from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment, appropriations funding, community contributions, and numerous volunteers led by Jimi Yamaichi, the curator, general contractor and museum director.

Exhibitions of local Japanese American history include a traveling exhibition, "Camp Days" 1942-1945" by artist Chizuko Judy Sugita de Queiroz (running until April 30th, 2011), a farming exhibit, Pioneers of San Jose Japantown, World War II Assembly Centers and Internment Camps, Japanese service in military units and the intelligence service, Post World War II Resettlement, the local Japanese American baseball team and much more.

San Jose's Japantown is one of only three surviving Japantowns in the United States and the only one in its original location. This museum is one of two in California, the second being in Los Angeles.

For more information call 408-294-3138 or go to jamsj.org. The museum is open Thursdays through Sundays from 12-4 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors/ students and members are free. ☞



Japanese American Museum at 535 N. 5th St.

(Photo/text: G. Frank)

End of Summer Sale Yields \$3000 for PAC*SJ Education Fund

It was an unusual weekend sale that started Friday morning, Sept. 24th. PAC*SJ members and neighbors had donated the typical mundane or weird items that are found in any PAC*SJ sale. What was unusual was that shoppers couldn't park. The City was conducting extensive street cleaning that morning so parking was prohibited on 13th street, and parked cars could be towed. Our amazing volunteers began directing shoppers to safe parking zones and keeping all eyes peeled for tow trucks, meter maids and street sweeping vehicles. We endured the chaos until 1:00pm when the City crews removed the no parking signs.

Many shoppers look for this sale because of its large assortment of items. However, neighbors also like to see what is recycled to another Naglee Park home. One family donated a custom made fir entertainment center purchased at the sale three years ago. It was re-sold to a woman who lives around the block. Another donation was handed to Patt Curia who recognized it as something PAC*SJ had given to History San Jose for its summer fund raiser. The donor didn't even know

it was originally from PAC*SJ.

Our stellar list of volunteers includes: Ellen Garboske, Leslie Masunaga, Rene Coca, Lucille Boone, Sally Beste, Bob Johnson, Patti Phillips, Sandra Soellner, Judy Stabile, Gayle Frank, John Frolli, Sheik Alli, Tom Aldridge, Natalie Alexander, Lynda Sereno, John Mitchell, Linda Faulkner, Jim Norvell, Elizabeth Figueroa, Barbara Kempczinski, Patti Cunningham and, of course, shoppers pitched in to help move things during the sale. Thanks, as always, to the Salas and Wangsness-Liesentfelt families for the use of their front yards.

Our next sale will be in Spring 2011 so please add "simplify and clean up" to your New Year's resolutions. If you start sooner, and have some wonderful things to donate, contact Patt Curia (408) 294-3599 or pcuria@sbcglobal.net. We are interested in gathering antiques, collectibles, local memorabilia and useful items that PAC*SJ can sell at future events.

☞

PAC*SJ Calendar 2010-2011

- Dec. 13** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting & Potluck, 6-8:30 pm, San Jose Woman's Club, 75 So. 11th
- Jan. 10** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Firehouse
- Feb. 7** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Firehouse
- Mar. 21** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Firehouse
- Apr. 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Firehouse
- May 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Firehouse



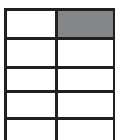
*The Landmark Ballroom of the San Jose Woman's Club at the PAC*SJ 20th Anniversary Celebration that was held on Nov. 12th.*

(Photo: Luis Castello)

ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

Continuity is distributed to over 600 San José preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

Buy ads in 4 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!



Business Card
Single issue \$50
4 issues \$120



1/4 Page
Single issue \$100
4 issues \$250



1/2 Page
Single issue \$200
4 issues \$450



Full Page
Single issue \$375
4 issues \$700

PAC*SJ Celebration Honorees

Founding Board of Directors—1990

Karita M. Hummer, President	Betsy Mathieson, V. P.
Sharon Heinrichs, Secretary	Greg Casella, Treasurer
Bonnie Bamberg	Marvin Bamberg, AIA
Paul Bernal	Lilyann Brannon
Susan Hartt	Tom King
Patti Massey	Keith Alan Watt
Cherilyn Widell	

Founding Advisory Board—1990

Clyde Arbuckle	Larry Bryan
Joan Corsiglia	Jack Douglas
Judi Henderson	Alan Hess
Paul Hummer	Craig Mineweaser, AIA
Edwin T. Mosher	David Pandori
John V. Pinto	Leonard C. Ramirez
Gil Sanchez, AIA	

Origins of PAC*SJ


In 1989, Karita Hummer was a whirlwind of preservation ideas and energy. She feared that if no one intervened, San José would lose most of its major historic buildings to the redevelopment of downtown. Karita was a newcomer to San José, but she appreciated the graceful old buildings that gave the city character, dignity and historic foundation.

The City of San José's "Committee for the Past" had just prepared the *Plan for the Past*, which set out a blueprint for documenting, preserving, and celebrating the city's rich history. Having identified the need for an active private sector advocate to actively promote historic preservation, Karita looked for a community partner to help. She found an advocacy group in the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara County. The VPA president at that time was Betsy Mathieson, and Karita encouraged her for months to expand VPA's activities to include a public education program to promote the preservation of San José's historic commercial, institutional and residential buildings.

Betsy suggested that Karita organize a VPA committee to accomplish her goals. The new committee was called the VPA Preservation Action Committee, and the first meeting was in the living room of Betsy's Victorian house on Pierce Avenue in November of 1989. The group soon discovered that in order to act fast enough to save threatened buildings, they needed the autonomy of being a separate organization. The committee quickly became the Preservation Action Council of San José. Karita became President and Betsy became Vice-President.

In order to be eligible for grants, the group needed to incorporate. San Jose City Council member David Pandori was an Advisory Board member and an attorney. With his help, the group was able to prepare the articles of incorporation, bylaws and tax forms and the incorporation process was completed in 1990. PAC*SJ received its first grant that year from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to create a feasibility study for the First Church of Christ Scientist on St James Street.

In the 20 years since its founding, PAC*SJ has served as San José's primary advocacy group for the preservation of the city's historic architecture. It has challenged the City of San José and other public agencies when necessary to meet their obligations under local, state and federal law regarding the preservation of significant aspects of our built environment, and has partnered with public agencies, private companies, and individuals to save important buildings, and promote the physical heritage of our community.

The efforts of our founders are deserving of commemoration. Due to their early efforts, PAC*SJ today is a recognized and respected force and partner in the preservation of San José's architectural history. 

20th Anniversary Celebration Committee

PAC*SJ' s Successful Preservation Efforts Since 1990

Due to individuals, neighborhood associations, organizations, corporations, elected officials and people like you.

- **Open House tours** of St. James Park, San Pedro Square, the National Register Commercial District, and Japantown to foster interest in historic districts.
- **Hosted 1996 California Preservation Foundation Conference** in San Jose, which brought statewide attention to San Jose's preservation efforts.
- **Support and advocacy for the Seismic Retrofit Program** that provided design grants, engineering services and legal services to owners of unreinforced masonry structures in the City of San Jose using Redevelopment funds in Redevelopment areas.
- **Partnered in the preparation of the Mid-Century Context Statement** and Survey (1935 to 1975), and Northside Historic Context Statement.
- **Del Monte Plant 51** (advocated for the preservation and re-purposing of this dry pack cannery)
- **Hoover Junior High School** (advocated for the preservation and reuse of this 1930s neighborhood junior high school building designed by William Weeks)
- **Twohy Building** (restored)
- **Borcher Brothers Building** (advocated for the preservation and reuse of this building in the Ryland Mews housing project)
- **Mark's Hot Dogs, aka "The Orange"** (advocated for the preservation, relocation, and reuse of this important example of Roadside Architecture)
- **Civic Plaza houses** (advocated for the preservation and relocation of the houses in the path of the new City Hall)

Litigation

- **SJSU Scheller House** (engaged in lawsuit that saved building from demolition - relocated on campus and renovated)
- **Jose Theater** (engaged in lawsuit that saved building from demolition -rehabilitated as the Improv Comedy Club)
- **Montgomery Hotel** (engaged in lawsuit that saved building from demolition moved south to accommodate Fairmont Hotel Annex and rehabilitated as a hotel)
- **IBM Building 25** (PAC*SJ prevailed in court only to lose the building to fire)
- **Wilcox Building/Lean's Jewelry** (advocated for the preservation and reuse of this key building in the downtown)
- **Dr. Eu Buildings** – Bassler-Haynes and the Beach Building (advocated for Redevelopment Agency participation in the preservation of these two key buildings in the downtown)
- **General Electric Office Building** on Monterey Rd. (incorporated into *The Plant* Shopping Center)
- **Greeninger House** (moved from city property and reused)

Partnerships

- **National Trust grants** (the first to conduct a reuse study on the First Church of Christ Scientist. Several other grants followed)
- **River Street** (participated in Memorandum of Agreement with Army Corps of Engineers, advocated relocation of key buildings, performed salvage for Santa Clara Valley Water District, partnered in relocation, rehabilitation, and reuse)
- **Participated in creation of the Conservation Area ordinance** and three new areas
- **Advocate for strengthening the City's "Vacant Building Ordinance"** in 2010 to help reduce the demolitions by fire.

*Our members work diligently on educational projects such as book production, open houses and tours, attendance at neighborhood association meetings and government hearings. At times, however, PAC*SJ has found that litigation is warranted. This willingness to step forward has made a difference in the way historic buildings and districts are treated in San Jose.*

Selected Preservation Successes

- **Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch** (advocated for preservation and museum at Santa Teresa Park)

Celebration Auction Donors-Thank You!

Stephanie Abbott	Royce Dove	Edwin Levy	Roy's Station
Kim Aldridge	Bernie Drechsler	Lisa's Tea Treasures	San Jose Fire Museum
Billy Berk's Restaurant	Ellen Garboske	Louis Martini Winery	San Jose Repertory Theatre
Mim Bloom	Norm Gary	Tina Marguson	San Jose Stage
Maria Brand	Eulipia Restaurant	Peggy McClure	Santa Clara Valley Club
Sue Burnham	Farrington Historical Society	Tom McEnery	of American Youth Hostels
Casa Nuestra Winery	Hanna House Tours	Mumm Napa	Marcella Sherman
City Lights Theatre	Hans & April Halberstadt	Linda Nemmer	Silica Valley Glass Studio
Clubhouse Restaurant/Lounge	Henninger Hill Apiary	Opera San Jose	Sophia
Dr. G.D. Curia	History San Jose	Pioneers of SC County	St. Clement Winery
Patt Curia	Julia Howlett	Planet Granite	Judy Stabile
Heather David	J Lohr Winery	Steve Polcyn	Trio Spa
De Anza Hotel	Lowe's	Poor House Bistro	Wahoo's Fish Tacos
Del Carlo Photo Studio	Nelda Jones	John Price	Deb Wible

San Jose's Major Architectural Losses Since 1990

- **Weir Building** – West Julian St. at Market St., Aaron Green, architect from Taliesen West (demolished and replaced with Villa Torino Apartments)
- **Pestana Building** – South First & East San Carlos Sts., Norton Curtis, architect (demolished and now part of the San Antonio Plaza Block 8 parking lot)
- **Costa Hall** – south of the Odd Fellow Building on South Third St. (demolished)
- **St. Joseph's School** – Park Ave., William Klinkert, architect (demolished and replaced by Adobe on Park Avenue)
- **Lou's Donuts** – East Santa Clara St. at 16th (demolished without permit)
- **Murison Label factory** – Stockton Ave., William Binder, architect (demolished)
- **Fox-Markowitz building** - North 3rd St., Louis Lenzen, architect (demolished for City Hall employee parking garage)
- **Palomar Ballroom** – Notre Dame Ave. (demolished for AXIS Condominiums)
- **Stephen's Meat Packing** – Montgomery & San Fernando Sts., (demolished for parking)
- **Porter-Stock Building** (Landmark) – South First near San Fernando Sts., Louis Lenzen, architect (destroyed by fire)
- **Donner-Houghton House** (Landmark) – St. John St. near North 4th St., John T. Burkett, architect (destroyed by fire)
- **Former Martin L. King, Jr. Main Library** - West San Carlos St., Norton Curtis, architect (demolition permit approved for Convention Center expansion)
- **IBM 25** – Cottle Rd., John Savage Bolles, architect (destroyed by fire)
- **Delmas Church** (Primera Iglesia Bautista) – Delmas Ave. near Park Ave. (destroyed by fire)
- **Letcher's Garage**—N. 1st St at St. James St. – Wolfe & McKenzie, architects at North First Street and St. James Street (demolished for future housing development)

Thank You – Celebration Sponsors!

Advocate

Adobe Systems Incorporated

SummerHill Homes & The Mirassou Trust

Supporter

Jack Douglas

Luthard Family

San Pedro Square Market (Tom McEnery, John McEnery, Martin Menne)

Helen Stevens

Friend

Joan Bohnett

Joanne Cirocco/Ameriprise

Patt Curia

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Remillard House by April Halberstadt

The Remillard House on Story Road presents one of those situations that both gratifies and frustrates the local preservation community. On one hand, the owners have gone to great lengths to do what they could to preserve the structure by putting the house on the National Register of Historic Places. The house has been listed as a landmark since 1975, and the owners worked for many years to make the necessary improvements and restore the house in an accurate and sensitive manner. That is the good news and PAC*SJ is always gratified to know there are owners who are sensitive to preservation issues.

The frustration comes from the zoning designation for the Remillard House. The land surrounding the site has been developed as an industrial park, and the zoning for the house and its garden is

also currently IP (Industrial Park). The house enjoys legal non-conforming status as a residence, but the zoning and the neighbors do not make it attractive to a future residential buyer. This is a situation that is, sadly, too common and one that is frequently frustrating. It is not enough to save the structure itself; a long term plan and use for the house also has to be considered. Many wonderful structures, particularly those orchard homes with acres of open land, have been doomed by their zoning.

The Remillard House itself is wonderful, although terribly dirty at this time. It might well be considered an early victory for local preservation since the two fellows who acquired it in the 1970's, Richard Gilbert and Joseph Covey, were early members of the Victorian Preservation Association. Records found in the house reveal that several VPA meetings

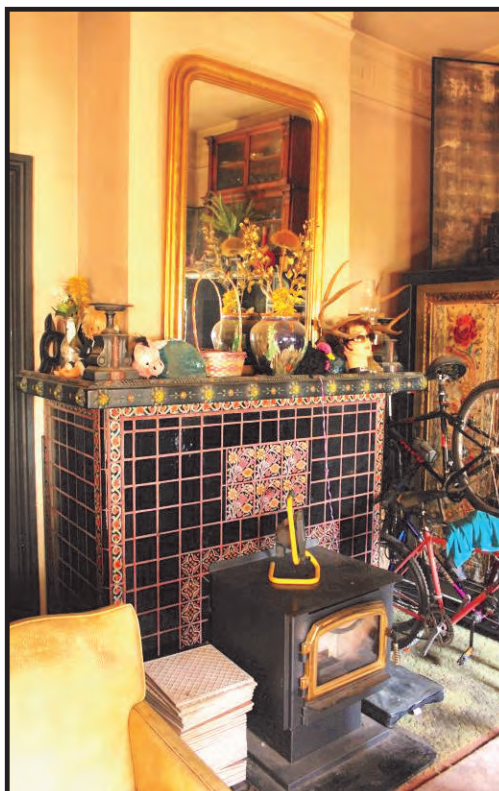
and gatherings in the 1970's were held at the Remillard House. The late Richard Gilbert was an architect who graduated from UC-Berkeley, and he apparently had a great interest in preservation. His partner, Joseph Covey, was an interior designer who passed away on October 26th at the age of 84. The house came to them from the Countess Remillard-Dandini, a family friend and confidant of Joseph Covey.



When Gilbert and Covey acquired the structure after the Countess died in 1972, the house had been closed up for 18 years. The two men worked for many years to renovate the house.

The official name for the structure is the Ashworth-Remillard House. It reportedly dates to the 1860's when Gold Rush pioneer James Ashworth

(Continued on page 17)



Top, Remillard House front view: While the front of the house looks dilapidated, it is really only the upper porch that is in poor condition. A sun-porch, added in the Remillard years, was used to store heavy furniture, damaging the porch structure. Surprisingly, the remainder of the house is actually in sound condition.

Left, interior room with black tile fireplace: One of the most interesting features of the house is the "Mexican suite" of four rooms added by the Count Dandini. He brought craftsmen from Mexico who added the fireplace and bathroom of black tile. Woodwork in the chapel, bedroom and library was replaced with carved and ebonized woods, and the panels of the doors feature polychrome designs. This suite was added in the 1930's.

Remillard House (Cont'd)

bought 250 acres of farmland in Santa Clara Valley. Ashworth came from Kentucky in 1852 and went directly to "the diggins" in Mariposa County. Having made his pile, Ashworth moved to Santa Clara County and built this house for his family, which included six sons and one daughter. The family farmed the property until 1890 when Mrs. Ashworth died, and the aging Ashworth sold the property and moved into town.

Ashworth sold his property to the Remillard family, the largest manufacturers of bricks in the Bay Area. The Remillards were from Oakland, and already owned a number of brickyards throughout the area. Three Remillard brothers came to California from Canada in 1861, and built their small business into a major corporation. The family owned brick yards in Oakland, San Rafael, Greenbrae, Pleasanton and San Jose. The Remillard Company was the major supplier of brick to rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

By the 1890's, the company was in the hands of Peter Remillard and his only son. Both men died unexpectedly, leaving the business to the widow, Madame Cordule Remillard and her talented daughter, Lillian. The two women ran the business from their Oakland office. The Ashworth house on the San Jose property was used as a summer house and vacation retreat by the family. Lillian Remillard, training as a musician and singer in New York, abandoned her study and returned to help her mother. Lillian maintained her interest in music, using her wealth to sponsor local musical events and found the San Francisco Opera Company. In 1932 at the age of fifty, Lillian Remillard married an unlikely suitor who was twenty years her junior. Count Alessandro Olioli Dandini was of Italian heritage but was

raised in Mexico. The marriage lasted only three years but the litigation that resulted from the divorce went on for decades. Although the Count had long since remarried, he was still trying to claim a portion of the estate after her death forty years later. The Count's Mexican heritage is most evident in the Remillard house, since a wing of the structure was added to reflect his Mexican taste.



The library, chapel, bedroom and bathroom are trimmed in heavily carved and ebonized wood and the poly-chromed doors are simply spectacular. The library fireplace has been refaced using black ceramic tile and the bathroom also features black ceramics. According to Joseph Covey, who was the most recent owner, *(Continued on page 19)*




Above, rear view of Remillard House: The Remillard family bought the property in 1892 and added a sun porch on the west side as well as expanding the kitchen to the rear.

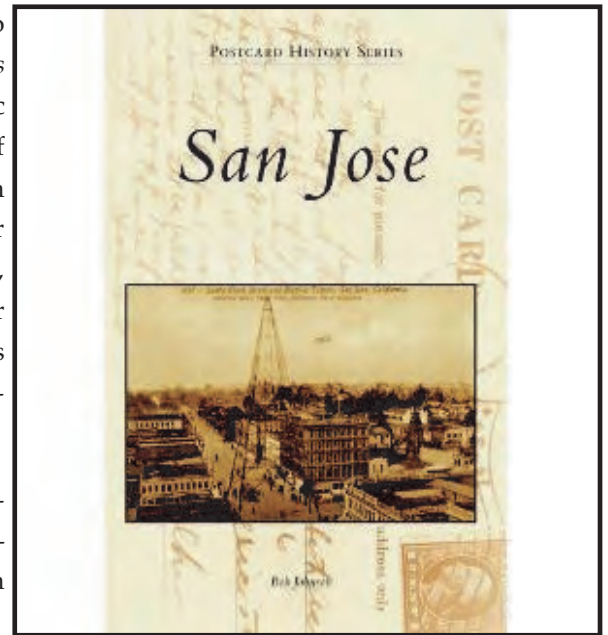
Left, interior fireplace wall: The owners were in the process of rebuilding the fireplaces and finding decorative replacements. The ceilings are ten feet high and most of the moldings and woodwork are original and in very good condition.

*(Photos: Hans Halberstadt)
(Text: April Halberstadt)*

New Book Release — “Postcard History Series, San Jose”

Arcadia Publishing has recently released a new book which will appeal to those interested in the history of San Jose. Part of the *Postcard History Series* and entitled simply *San Jose*, this new book contains 200 images of historic postcards from the time before San Jose was transformed into a center of high technology. The postcards were drawn from the collections of the San Jose Public Library California Room and from the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History. They include images of businesses, civic buildings, churches, schools, neighborhoods, streets, Alum Rock Park, and Frontier Village. They offer a fascinating glimpse of San Jose’s past, reminding us not only what has been lost but also what has been saved thanks to the efforts of the Preservation Action Council and other dedicated individuals.

The book was written by Bob Johnson, retired local history librarian and co-author of the Arcadia publication *San Jose’s Historic Downtown*. It is available at Barnes and Noble, Borders, Recycle Bookstore and through Amazon.com. 



Sample of postcards in book:

Left, Main business district of downtown San Jose.

Below, “The New Naglee Tract” in San Jose.

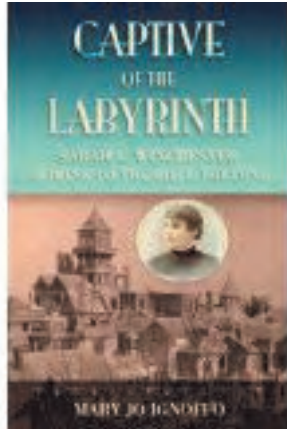


Other Recent Books on Local History

“Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L. Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune “

By Mary Jo Ignoffo

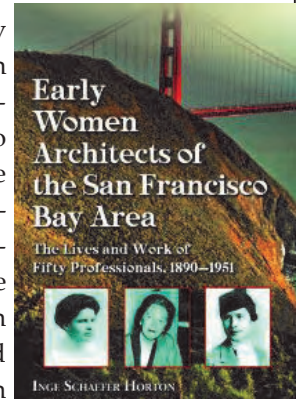
Mary Jo Ignoffo has authored five books, many articles, and museum exhibits on an array of California history topics. During her research at a local archives she came upon a cache of letters and documents about Sarah Winchester that have never been used for publication. Subsequent searches turned up even more hidden records about the reclusive heiress, and a full-scale biography resulted. Ignoffo’s ability to translate historical record into compelling narrative gives this book a particularly appealing edge. She lives in Santa Clara, not far from Sarah Winchester’s enormous house. ❧



“Early Woman Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area – The Lives and Work of Fifty Professionals, 1890 – 1951” by Inge S. Horton

Inge Schaefer Horton is a retired city planner with a strong background in architecture who has been researching early women architects who lived and practiced at the same time as Julia Morgan, the eminent California architect. Her passion for discovering the careers and work of these lesser-known professionals began when she and her friends mounted an exhibition on European women architects at the San Francisco AIA

(American Institute of Architects.) One of her friends remarked that the Europeans are lucky because they have so many role models while we in the United States have only Julia Morgan. Inge thought that it was highly unlikely that Julia Morgan was the only female pursuing architecture and started her search for her cohorts. Her research was full of surprises and eventually led to her decision to write a book about these amazing women. ❧



Remillard House (Cont'd)

the Count's favorite colors were black and red, and his decorating scheme for this Victorian house reflected his taste. The house is currently under the control of Sue Cucuzza, a brick collector who wandered by one day, looking for a couple of Remillard bricks to add to her collection. The owner was desperate for help and asked her to give him a hand. The City of San Jose had condemned the house, and it was about to be sold on the courthouse steps for back taxes. Sue is now the legal custodian and has been making the repairs, putting the house and site back in order. She has contacted dozens of people who have been willing to work far beyond what she can afford to pay.

Contractor Dave Sheets has generously used his window expertise to prepare the windows. Sue found a bee keeper, "Mr. Bee" to remove several swarms that were in the house. A gutter man is making roof repairs and a couple of contractors have been helping her to repair the badly damaged roof and to shore up a sagging porch.

But the site needs both an interim use strategy and a long-term plan. Now that the owner, Joseph Covey is deceased, the house and property go into a 20-year “preservation” trust. In the meantime, Sue and her friends are disposing of dozens of mattresses and shopping carts left on the site by transients who currently have a major encampment in nearby Coyote Creek.

There was an Open House event on October 7th to introduce a new generation of preservation and history resources to the structure and to enlist support for the house. Members of local landmarks commissions and history groups have now seen the house and have become re-acquainted with this unique resource. Hopefully someone will come forward with a good idea or two for this house. Sue can use all the help she can get. ❧

April Halberstadt

Exploring San Jose Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions at www.preservation.org.

HL86-35 Buffington Residence, 1224-1226 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

Local architects, Frank D. Wolfe and Charles M. McKenzie, designed this stately Queen Anne Victorian in 1904. John T. Jopson, who was an orchardist and carpenter, built the house. Blair and Margaret Kent lived in the house prior to the purchase of the home by Howard and Lulu Buffington in 1923. Mr. Buffington served as Santa Clara County Deputy Sheriff and became the first fire chief of the Willow Glen Volunteer Fire Department. Later he was chief jailer during the infamous 1933 lynching of the Hart kidnapers in St. James Park.

After the death of Lulu Buffington in 1980, the house deteriorated and was destined to be torn down, but local citizens fought for San Jose City Landmark status, which was granted in 1986. Subsequently the house was rehabilitated and remodeled into offices in 1987 while restoring the historic features of the original home. ☞

Source: *Touring Historic Willow Glen; Ten Walking Loops, 2007*



*Buffington Residence, now offices, at 1224-1226
Lincoln Avenue in Willow Glen.*

What happened to HL86-33?

The Planning Department records say the structure was the C. J. Harrison House at 897 E. Jackson St. It was reported as a walnut orchard farmhouse built in 1875 in the Victorian stick-style of architecture. The research mentions that it was one of the few remaining examples of an orchard home existing in the north San Jose Downtown area. Unfortunately, a request to withdraw from city landmark status was submitted in May of 1986. The good news is that the house (below) is still there and appears to be well maintained. ☞

Below, former C.J. Harrison House (Photos: G. Frank)



IN MEMORY OF SALVATORE SUNSERI

Sal, a former PAC* SJ Board Member, passed away unexpectedly on October 2, 2010 at the age of 57. He will be greatly missed by his friends at PAC* SJ.



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The Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San José’s architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San José that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

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